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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD [SHIPPING]
Standing Committee on Developing Services
Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services
Sectors in Developing Countries: SHIPPING
Third session
Geneva, 6 June 1995
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda, annotations to the provisional agenda and suggestions for the organization of the work of the Committee

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Fostering competitive multimodal transport services
4. Strengthening technical cooperation and human resource development
5. Review of the work programme of the Standing Committee with special emphasis on the preparations for UNCTAD IX
6. Other business
7. Adoption of the report of the Standing Committee, Shipping, to the Trade and Development Board.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the main Committees of the Trade and Development Board, the Standing Committee shall elect a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members, taking into account the need to ensure an equitable geographical distribution. Moreover, rule 19 of the same rules of procedure states that the Bureau of the Committee shall consist of seven members, including four members from Groups A and C combined, two members from Group B and one member from Group D, referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) as amended.

It is therefore suggested that in keeping with the cycle of rotation for the election of Chairman and Rapporteur, the Chairman at the third session of the Standing Committee shall be a representative of one of the States members of list C and the Rapporteur a representative of one of the States members of list A (Asia). Two Vice-Chairmen shall be elected from lists A and C combined, two from list B and one from list D.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Standing Committee may wish to adopt the provisional agenda, as set out in section I above. The wording of item 5 has been slightly modified in relation to the provisional agenda approved by the Committee at its second session to bring it into line with the approved wording of the corresponding item on the agendas of other Standing Committees. Section III and the annexes to this note contain suggestions for the organization of the work of the Committee and a list of background documents.

Item 3: Fostering competitive multimodal transport services

The UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a report entitled "Competitive services in multimodal transport" (TD/B/CN.4/46) which identifies issues to be addressed in the course of formulating and implementing liberalization programmes and constraints faced by multimodal transport service suppliers in providing and using competitive services.

Recommendations are made with regard to a number of issues including liberalization, the development of joint ventures and the impact of electronic data interchange.

In particular, the report highlights the use of multimodal transport as an "environmentally friendly" method of transport and suggests that it may serve to stimulate discussion of transport policy issues by encouraging dialogue between transport users, providers and the governments.

The report, and a background document (UNCTAD/SDD/MT/7), are intended to provide the basis on which governments and the private sector can discuss and make appropriate decisions on the formulation and implementation of policies leading to a progressive liberalization of multimodal transport services. Issues addressed are also supported by other background documents (see annex II below) which were submitted to the second session and could not be discussed for lack of time.

Item 4: Strengthening technical cooperation and human resource development

The UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a report entitled "Technical cooperation and human resource development in shipping, ports and multimodal transport" (TD/B/CN.4/47) which describes the activities undertaken by the secretariat and draws some lessons from the practical experience gained from working in this field which could help improve the effectiveness of these activities in the future.

The report is intended to provide a basis on which governments and other institutions can discuss and make appropriate recommendations for strengthening technical cooperation and human resource development.

Item 5: Review of the work programme of the Standing Committee with special emphasis on the preparations for UNCTAD IX.

The UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a progress report entitled "Review of the work programme of the Standing Committee with special emphasis on the preparations for UNCTAD IX." (TD/B/CN.4/48).

This report informs the Standing Committee on all issues in the work programme which are not specifically covered by an agenda item but for which work has been carried out by the secretariat between the second and third sessions of the Committee, following the recommendations made by the Committee at its second session. It addresses the basic issues in shipping, ports and maritime and transport legislation. The annex to the report presents a comprehensive list of activities and outputs carried out over the period 1993-1995.

The report is in itself a summary which should assist the Standing Committee in assessing the work accomplished so far. More details on reported activities/studies can be found in the respective background documents, a list of which is provided in annex II below.

In considering this report, the Standing Committee may wish to draw conclusions or provide guidance for future action and assessment of the programme's functioning.

Item 6: Other business

Item 7: Adoption of the report of the Standing Committee (Shipping) to the Trade and Development Board

The report of the Standing Committee (Shipping) will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its forty-second session.

III. SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Pursuant to a decision taken by the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its fortieth session, the Standing Committee's third session on Shipping is scheduled for four working days, from 6 to 9 June 1995, with the possibility of meeting in the following week to adopt the draft report. The session will commence on Tuesday, 6 June at 11 a.m. Normal meeting hours are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Limited facilities for group meetings will be available on request.

Regarding the organization of work, it is suggested that the Committee, after a general debate, may wish to convert the plenary session into an informal sessional meeting with the same Bureau as the Standing Committee.

It would expedite the work of the Standing Committee if written proposals could be submitted as early as possible during the session. The Committee may wish to establish a deadline for the submission of written proposals.

A tentative schedule of meetings, drawn up on the assumption that the plenary meeting will be converted into an informal sessional meeting, is shown in annex I.

As the meeting starts only on a Tuesday, it is expected that the Standing Committee will finalize its deliberations by Friday afternoon, the closing plenary then being held in the following week to allow time for preparation of the draft report.

Annex I

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Tuesday, 6 June 11 a.m. (plenary)	Item 1: Election of officers Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work General debate
Tuesday, 6 June 3 p.m. (plenary followed by informals)	General debate (concluded) Item 3: Fostering competitive shipping multimodal transport services
Wednesday, 7 June 10 a.m. (informals)	Item 3: (continued)
Wednesday, 7 June 3 p.m. (informals)	Item 4: Strengthening technical cooperation and human resource development
Thursday, 8 June 10 a.m. (informals)	Item 4: (continued)
Thursday, 8 June 3 p.m. (informals)	Item 5: Review of the work programme
Friday, 9 June 10 a.m. (informals)	Item 5: (continued)
Friday, 9 June 3 p.m. (informals)	Item 5: (continued)
Week of 12-16 June (closing plenary)	Item 6: Other business Item 7: Adoption of the report of the Standing Committee (Shipping) to the Trade and Development Board

Annex II

CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTS

For ease of reference, sessional and background documents are listed below under their respective items:

Sessional documents:

Item 3: - Fostering competitive multimodal transport services (TD/B/CN.4/46)

Item 4: - Strengthening technical cooperation and human resource development (TD/B/CN.4/47)

Item 5: - Review of the work programme of the Standing Committee with special emphasis on the preparations for UNCTAD IX. (TD/B/CN.4/48)

Background documents:

Relating to item 3:

- Facing the challenge of integrated transport services (UNCTAD/SDD/MT/7)
- Multimodal Transport Handbook (UNCTAD/SDD/MT/8)
- Containerization and standards (UNCTAD/SDD/MT/2)
- Mega multimodal transport operators and mega carriers (UNCTAD/SDD/MT/4)
- Multimodal transport and trading opportunities (UNCTAD/SDD/MT/5)

Relating to item 5:

- Changes in national practices covering shipper/ocean carriers relations (UNCTAD/SDD/SHIP/2)
- Ship finance for developing countries (UNCTAD/SDD/SHIP/3)
- Maritime policy reforms in the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union (UNCTAD/SDD/SHIP/4)
- Progressive liberalization and the development of shipping services in developing countries - country experience (UNCTAD/SDD/SHIP/5)
- Review of Maritime Transport, 1993 (TD/B/CN.4/37)
- Strategic port pricing (UNCTAD/SDD/PORT/2)
- Comparative analysis of privatization, commercialization and decentralization (UNCTAD/SDD/PORT/3)
- Report of the Joint UNCTAD/IMO Intergovernmental Group of Experts on its seventh session (TD/B/CN.4/GE.2/3)
- The place of general average in marine insurance today (UNCTAD/SDD/LEG/1)
- General average - Reform of the system (UNCTAD/SDD/LEG/3)
- Legal aspects of ship leasing in developing countries - A preliminary review (UNCTAD/SDD/LEG/4)